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ABSTRACT

This document consist of the abstracts for two papers which considered the impact of information technologies on political and economic systems. The first paper, "The Political Repercussions of Transnational Corporate Information Systems" (Terry Curtis), argued that information technologies are the most recent in a series of socio-technical systems developed to serve as infrastructure for social organizations, and that, as these technologies develop in both political and economic systems, they will effect the mix between relatively centralized political systems and relatively decentralized economic systems. The second paper, "New Information Technology and Economic Coordination" (Hajime Oniki), considered the effects of new information technology upon the way in which economic coordination is organized. It is argued that information technology has decreased both market cost and organizational cost, and also that the reduction in market cost is greater than the reduction in organizational cost. A mathematical model is constructed to describe these changes. (Author/EW)

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Changing Scope and Structure of Telecommunications and its effects on Government and Industrial Organizations Section

Airlie, Virginia

September 27-30, 1987

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Terry Curtis: The Political Repercussions of Transnational Corporate Information Systems

Information technologies are the most recent in a series of socio-technical systems developed to serve as infrastructure for social organization. Political and economic systems are also technologies of social organization. There have been variations across nations, and over time within nations, in the mix of the organizational responsibilities assigned, on the one hand, to relatively centralized political institutions or, on the other hand, to relatively decentralized economic institutions. Development and adoption of informatics technologies in both political and economic systems will affect future variations in this mix. In the short term, improved infrastructure will make possible global integration and centralization of the economic system which will change the role and function of political systems.

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THE CHANGING SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ITS EFFECT ON GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chair: ~~Deborah Estrin~~ Christine Borgman

Hajime Oniki: New Information Technology and Economic Coordination

This paper considers the effects of new information technology (IT) upon the way in which economic coordination is organized. The problem will be considered by comparing the costs of creating and operating the two alternative modes of coordination: organization cost and market cost. The primary impact of IT arises from the fact that informational costs are decreased significantly. It will be argued, by examining each determinant of the costs, that IT has decreased both organization cost and market cost, and also that the reduction is greater with market cost that with organization cost. Attempt will be made to construct a mathematical model describing this.

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